incident, plaintiff submitted an administrative tort claim with Wildlife Services (attached hereto as Exhibit A). Plaintiff had a reasonable and good faith belief that he had filed his administrative tort claim with the appropriate agency. Wildlife Services never returned plaintiff's claim or transferred it to the appropriate agency, as required by 28 C.F.R. §14.2(b)(1), guidelines established by the Department of Justice.

The address for Wildlife Services is 2800 Cottage Way, Sacramento, CA. The address for United States Animal, Plant and Inspection Service (herein after referred to as "APIS") is also in Sacramento, on Arden Way, less than a mile from Wildlife Services. On October 18, 2007, plaintiff an FTCA complaint against the United States of America (see docket #1, Exhibit B).

II.

PLAINTIFF CONSTRUCTIVELY FILED HIS CLAIM WITHIN THE TWO YEAR STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS.

Plaintiff filed his claim on October 11, 2006, less than a year after the accident. Under 28 C.F.R. §14.2(b)(1), Wildlife Services had an affirmative duty to transfer the claim to APIS or return the claim to plaintiff. Ortiz v. United States (2007) U.S. Dist. LEXIS 11294 *6. As noted in Ortiz:

> may nevertheless be considered constructively filed with the appropriate agency." See Bukala v. United States, 854 F. 2nd 201, 203-04 (7th Cir. 1998). The Department of Justice has established the following administrative guideline with respect to FTCA claims: A claim shall be presented to the federal agency whose activities gave rise to the claim. When a claim is presented to any other federal agency, that agency shall transfer it forthwith to the appropriate agency, if the proper agency can be identified from the claim, and advise the claimant of the transfer. If transfer is not feasible the claim shall be returned to claimant...Courts had interpreted 28 C.F.R. §14.2(b)(1) as imposing affirmative duties upon federal agencies who receive FTCA claims, but who are not the

> agency whose activities gave rise to the claim. See Hart v. Department of Labor

"...[U]nder certain limited circumstances, a claim filed with the wrong agency

OPPOSITION TO MOTION TO DISMISS FOR LACK OF SUBJECT MATTER **JURISDICTION [FED. R. CIV. P. 12(b)]**

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ex rel United States, 116 F 3rd 1338, 1340 (10th Cir., 1997); Greene v. United States, 872 F 2nd 236-37 (8th Cir., 1989); Bukala v. United States, 854 F 2nd 201, 203-04 (7th Cir., 1988)...Such agencies 'in a dutiful and timely fashion' are to either transfer the claim to the appropriate agency if the agency can be identified from the claim or return the claim to the claimant if transfer is not feasible. See 28 C.F.R. §14.2(b)(1); Hart v. Department of Labor ex rel United States, 116 F 3rd at 1340-41 (10th Cir., 1997); Bukala v. United States, 854 F 2nd at 204 (7th Cir., 1988)....[W]hen an 'inappropriate agency' fails in its duty to promptly comply with section 14.2(b)(1), and, as a result, a timely filed, but misdirected claim does not reach the proper agency within the limitations, the claim may be considered timely filed. Hart v. Department of Labor ex rel United States, 116 F 3rd at 1341 (10th Cir., 1997); Greene v. United States, 872 F 2nd at 237 (8th Cir., 1989); Bukala v. United States, 854 F 2nd at 204 (7th Cir., 1988)...." Ortiz v. United States (2007) U.S. Dist. LEXIS 11294, *33-*35 (D. Cal. 2007).

In *Ortiz*, plaintiff mailed her claim to the United States Naval Legal Services Agency.

The appropriate agency was HHS. The Navy never transferred the claim to HHS or returned the claim to plaintiff. The Court found that plaintiff's claim was "constructively filed" with the appropriate agency.

Brewer v. United States 2007 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 46985 (D. Tex. 2007) [Unpublished but permissible to cite, FRCP Rule 32.1(a)(ii)] followed Ortiz. In Brewer, claimant filed an administrative claim with the Clerk of the United States Court of Appeal for the Fifth Circuit, an inappropriate agency, less than seven weeks before the expiration of the two year Statute of Limitations. AO was the appropriate agency.

The Court denied defendant's Motion to Dismiss. The Court cited *Greene v. United States*, 872 F 2nd 236, 237 (8th Cir. 1989) for the proposition that:

"When a federal agency fails to comply with section 14.2(b)(1), a claim that is timely filed with an incorrect agency shall be deemed timely presented to the appropriate agency."

The doctrine of constructive filing is "both logical as well as fair and equitable." Bukala v. United States, 854 F 2nd 201, 203 (7th Cir. 1998).

In *Bukala*, a claim seeking damages for death due to malpractice at a V.A. Hospital was filed with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC). EEOC did not transfer the claim to V.A. A year later, claimant learned that V.A. had never received the claim and then re-filed with the V.A., but this time the limitations period had expired. The District Court dismissed the subsequent FTCA suit on grounds of limitations, but the 7th Circuit reversed, finding that the EEOC's failure to satisfy its duty under the transfer regulation to timely refer the misdirected claim to the V.A., or to **return** the claim, excused the failure to file the claim with the appropriate agency. The Court noted that the claimant had submitted her claim eight months before the two year filing deadline lapsed, and that under the special circumstances of this case it would be both logical as well as fair and equitable to find a constructive filing with the V.A. On remand, the Court in *Bukala v. United States*, 727 F. Supp. 382, 385 (D. III.

"The evidence shows that Mrs. Bukala filed her claim in the EEOC office on July 10, 1984, and the EEOC did not attempt to forward the claim to the V.A. as was its duty under the transfer regulation. Accordingly, Mrs. Bukala constructively filed her claim within the two year statute of limitations, and the United States' Motion to Dismiss is denied...." Bukala v. United States 727 F. 2nd 382, 385 (D. III. 1989).

In *Greene*, *Supra*, plaintiff fell down stairs in a government building she believed was under the jurisdiction of the GSA. She filed a claim with GSA, which was denied. When plaintiff filed an FTCA action, the government moved to dismiss, contending that the Department of Labor was the appropriate agency. The District Court granted the government's Motion to Dismiss. On appeal, the Court reversed, reasoning:

- II 7 .

"...[W]hen a federal agency fails to comply with section 14.2(b)(1), a claim that is timely filed with an incorrect agency shall be deemed timely presented to the appropriate agency. Because Greene's claim was timely filed, albeit with the wrong agency, and because GSA failed to transfer or return the claim, her claim satisfies the FTCA administrative claim procedure...." Greene v. United States, Supra pages 4-5.

Exhibit C is a true and correct copy of the transcription of a voice mail message from Krystal Correia to Lani Hendricks, one of my former secretaries. Exhibit C is dated November 6, 2007, about three weeks after the expiration of the Statute of Limitations. At this time, I have no recollection as to when I received or reviewed this message. It was filed in the Richman file, which is where I located it.

According to Mr. Friederick, he was aware of plaintiff's claim "6 to 8 months" before his call (i.e., March to May 2007), he thought we had it confused with Fish & Game, and stated, "...I don't know if this is the right place for this."

According to 28 C.F.R. 14.2(b)(1), Mr. Friederick had an "affirmative duty" to transmit the claim to the appropriate agency or **return** the claim to the plaintiff's attorney. Presumably, he did not forward it to the appropriate agency in light of defendant's motion.

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III.

CONCLUSION

Plaintiff filed his claim over a year before the two year Statute of Limitations. Wildlife Services never returned plaintiff's claim or transferred it to the appropriate agency. Pursuant to 28 C.F.R. §14.2(b)(1), plaintiff's claim was constructively filed in a timely manner and not subject to dismissal.

Respectfully submitted,

DATED: July 3, 2008

LAW OFFICES OF WILLIAM G. MCDEVITT

By_

Attorneys for Plaintiff

OPPOSITION TO MOTION TO DISMISS FOR LACK OF SUBJECT MATTER JURISDICTION [FED. R. CIV. P. 12(b)]

BROWN & McDEVITT ATTORNEYS AT LAW

300 Drake's Landing Road, Suite 172 Greenbrae, CA 94904 Telephone (415) 925-9212 Facsimile (415) 464-9252

Linda Joanne Brown* Christopher H. Dahms* Workers' Compensation William G. McDevitt Katherine A. Wine Personal Injury

October 11, 2006

U.S. Dept. of Fish & Wildlife Services 2800 Cottage Way, Room W-2605 Sacramento, CA 95825-1846

Re: Claim for Damage or Injury

Dear Sir/Madam:

Enclosed you will find a Claim for Damage, Injury or Death regarding our client, Ron Richman. Please process the claim and return any documents, file-endorsed form, etc. to us in the enclosed envelope provided.

Thank you for your assistance and if you have any questions, feel free to call.

Very truly yours,

Barbara Plaut Legal Assistant

WGM/bar Enclosures

					_	
CLAIM FOR D. INJURY, OR	INSTRUCTIONS: Please read carefully the instructions on the reverse side and supply information requested on both sides of this form. Use additional sheet(s) if necessary. See reverse side for additional instructions. FORM APPROVED OMB NO 1105-0008					
Submit To Appropriate Federal Agency: U.S. Dept. of Fish & Wildlife Service				Name, Address of claimant and claimant's personal representative, if any. (See instructions on reverse.) . (Number, Street, City, State and Zip		
2800 Cottage Wa	ay, Room W-2	2605 '	Ron Richman			
Sacramento, CA	95825-1846)	c/o Brown & McDevitt 300 Drakes Landing Rd. #172			
3. TYPE OF EMPLOYMENT	4. DATE OF BIRTH	5. MARITAL STA	TUĖ	6. DATE AND DAY OF ACC		
D MILITARY & CIVILIAN	10/15/56	M	.105	10/24/05		a.m.
-	ause thereof. Use addit an employee	ional pages if nece e of the	ssary.) U . S	. Dept. of Fis	h & Wild	life. On 10/24/
						cy, an employee
of the Dept. of U.S.A. At said				_		-
recklessly dro						
was stopped on						
9	<u>-</u>	PROPE	RTY DA	MAGE		
NAME AND ADDRESS OF OWNER.	IF OTHER THAN CLAIMAN	IT (Number, Street, C	ity, State	e, and Zip Code).		·
Contra Costa Co	ounty, 2530	Arnold D	ri <u>v</u> e	e, Ste. 140, M	artinez,	CA 94553
BRIEFLY DESCRIBE THE PROPER (See Instructions on reverse side.)	• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •					
Damage to the driven by Mr. 1		mant's v	ehio	cle and to the	front o	f the vehicle
10.		PERSONAL INJU	RY/WR	ONGFUL DEATH		
STATE NATURE AND EXTENT OF EINJURED PERSON OR DECEDENT.		OF DEATH, WHICH F	ORMS	THE BASIS OF THE CLAIM. IF C	THER THAN CLAIM	MANT, STATE NAME OF
Cervical disk h	nerniation a	ind should	der	strain.		·
				<u>. </u>		
11.		wi	TNESSE	is		
NAME	_			ADDRESS (Number, Street, City	, State, and Zip Coo	le)
Tom Rasmussen		1305 N.H. PMB 321, Lompoc, CA 93436				
12. (See instructions on reverse.)		AMOUNT OF	CLAIM	in dollars)		,
12a. PROPERTY DAMAGE	12b. PERSONAL INJURY			RONGFUL DEATH	12d. TOTAL (Failu	re to specify may cause
Unknown	\$250,000.00				forfeiture of year	•
I CERTIFY THAT THE AMOUNT OF FULL SATISFACTION AND FINAL S			IES CAL	JSED BY THE INCIDENT ABOVE	AND AGREE TO A	CCEPT SAID AMOUNT IN
13a. SIGNATURE SECUMMANT (See instruction) proverse side.)				13b. Phone number of person signing form 14. DATE OF SIGNATURE 10/6/06		
Attorney for Claimant CIVIL PENALTY FOR PRESENTING FRAUDULENT CLAIM				CRIMINAL PENALTY FOR PRESENTING FRAUDULENT CLAIM OR MAKING FALSE STATEMENTS		
The claimant is liable to the United St \$5,000 and not more than \$10,000, p by the Government. (See 31 U.S.C. 3		Fine of not more than \$10,000 o (See 18 U.S.C. 287, 1001.)	r imprisonment for n	ot more than 5 years or both.		

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> Case: 3:07-cv-5317 As of: 07/01/2008 10:21 AM PDT 1 of 3

> > ADRMOP, E-Filing, MEDIATION

U.S. District Court California Northern District (San Francisco) CIVIL DOCKET FOR CASE #: 3:07-cv-05317-WHA

Richman v. United States of America et al Assigned to: Hon. William H. Alsup

Demand: \$250,000

Cause: 28:1364 Auto Negligence

Date Filed: 10/18/2007 Jury Demand: Plaintiff

Nature of Suit: 380 Personal Property:

Jurisdiction: U.S. Government Defendant

Plaintiff

Ronald Richman

represented by William George McDevitt

Law Offices of William G. McDevitt

222 Rush Landing Road

P.O. Box 6169 Novato, CA 94948 415-898-1555 Fax: 415-898-1247

Email: kcorreia@braytonlaw.com

LEAD ATTORNEY

ATTORNEY TO BE NOTICED

V.

Defendant

United States of America

represented by Abraham A. Simmons

U.S. Attorney's Office 450 Golden Gate Avenue

P.O. Box 36055

San Francisco, CA 94102

(415) 436-7264 Fax: (415) 436-6748

Email: abraham.simmons@usdoi.gov

LEAD ATTORNEY

ATTORNEY TO BE NOTICED

Defendant

U.S. Department of Fish & Wildlife Service-

represented by Abraham A. Simmons

(See above for address) LEAD ATTORNEY

ATTORNEY TO BE NOTICED

Date Filed	#	Docket Text	
06/27/2008	20	MOTION to Dismiss for Lack of Jurisdiction filed by United States of America. Motion Hearing set for 8/7/2008 08:00 AM in Courtroom 9, 19th Floor, San Francisco. (Simmons, Abraham) (Filed on 6/27/2008) (Entered: 06/27/2008)	
05/22/2008		Set/Reset Hearings: Mediation Hearing set for 7/8/2008 10:00 AM., at the U.S. District Court, 450 Golden Gate Avenue, 16th Floor, San Francisco, CA 94102. Report to ADR Reception on the 16th floor to be directed to the assigned courtroom. (af, COURT STAFF) (Filed on 5/22/2008) (Entered: 05/22/2008)	
05/09/2008		Pre MED phone conference scheduled on Wednesday, May 21, 2008 at 11:00 a.m. Mediator will initiate the conference call. (af, COURT STAFF) (Filed on 5/9/2008) (Entered: 05/09/2008)	
04/29/2008	<u>19</u>	ADR Clerk's Notice Appointing Herb A. Schwartz as Mediator. (af, COURT STAFF) (Filed on 4/29/2008) (Entered: 04/29/2008)	

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Case: 3:07-cv-5317 As of: 07/01/2008 10:21 AM PDT 2 of 3

	100.	3:07-CV-5317 AS 01: 07/01/2008 10:21 AM PD1 2 0f 3
04/16/2008	18	AMENDED DOCUMENT by Ronald Richman. Amended Initial Disclosures. (Attachments: #1 Proof of Service)(McDevitt, William) (Filed on 4/16/2008) (Entered: 04/16/2008)
04/10/2008	17	Minute Entry: Initial Case Management Conference held on 4/10/2008 before William Alsup (Date Filed: 4/10/2008), Case referred to mediation. Jury Trial set for 5/18/2009 07:30 AM. Pretrial Conference set for 5/4/2009 02:00 PM. (Court Reporter Joan Columbini.) (dt, COURT STAFF) (Date Filed: 4/10/2008) (Entered: 04/10/2008)
04/10/2008	<u>16</u>	CASE MANAGEMENT SCHEDULING ORDER: ORDER REFERRING CASE to ADR Unit for Mediation. Jury Trial set for 5/18/2009 07:30 AM in Courtroom 9, 19th Floor, San Francisco. Discovery due by 1/9/2009. Pretrial Conference set for 5/4/2009 02:00 PM in Courtroom 9, 19th Floor, San Francisco. Motions due by 2/26/2009. Signed by Judge William Alsup on 4/10/2008. (whasec, COURT STAFF) (Filed on 4/10/2008) (Entered: 04/10/2008).
03/25/2008	15	SUPPLEMENTAL ORDER TO ORDER SETTING INITIAL CASE MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE re 14 Clerk's Notice. Signed by Judge William Alsup on 1/7/08. (dt, COURT STAFF) (Filed on 3/25/2008) (Entered: 03/25/2008)
03/25/2008	14	CLERK'S NOTICE Rescheduling Case Management Conference on Reassignment. Case Management Conference set for 4/10/2008 11:00 AM. Case Management Statement due by 4/3/2008. (dt, COURT STAFF) (Filed on 3/25/2008) (Entered: 03/25/2008)
03/18/2008	13	ORDER REASSIGNING CASE. Case reassigned to Judge Hon. William H. Alsup for all further proceedings. Judge Magistrate Judge Joseph C. Spero no longer assigned to the case. Signed by Executive Committee on 3/18/08. (mab, COURT STAFF) (Filed on 3/18/2008) (Entered: 03/18/2008)
03/17/2008	<u>12</u>	CLERK'S NOTICE of Impending Reassignment to U.S. District Judge (klh, COURT STAFF) (Filed on 3/17/2008) (Entered: 03/17/2008)
03/14/2008	11	Declination to Proceed Before a U.S. Magistrate Judge by United States of America, U.S. Department of Fish &Wildlife Service. (Simmons, Abraham) (Filed on 3/14/2008) (Entered: 03/14/2008)
03/13/2008	10	CASE MANAGEMENT STATEMENT re Further CMC on 3/21/08 filed by Ronald Richman. (McDevitt, William) (Filed on 3/13/2008) (Entered: 03/13/2008)
01/28/2008	2	CASE MANAGEMENT AND PRETRIAL ORDER: Further Case Management Conference set for 3/21/2008 at 01:30 PM. Updated Case Management Statement due by 3/14/2008. Signed by Judge Joseph C. Spero on 1/28/08. (klh, COURT STAFF) (Filed on 1/28/2008) (Entered: 01/28/2008)
01/25/2008	8	Minute Entry: Initial Case Management Conference held on 1/25/2008 before Joseph C. Spero. Further case management conference set for 3/21/8 at 1:30 PM. Court to prepare Order. (Tape #Not Recorded.) (klh, COURT STAFF) (Date Filed: 1/25/2008) (Entered: 01/25/2008)
01/17/2008	2	CONSENT to Proceed Before a US Magistrate Judge by Ronald Richman (McDevitt, William) (Filed on 1/17/2008) (Entered: 01/17/2008)
01/17/2008 ·	6	CASE MANAGEMENT STATEMENT <i>Civil L.R. 16–9</i> filed by Ronald Richman. (McDevitt, William) (Filed on 1/17/2008) (Entered: 01/17/2008)
11/16/2007	<u>5</u>	CLERK'S SECOND NOTICE TO PLAINTIFF RE: Consent to Proceed before a U.S. Magistrate Judge. Form due by Nov. 30, 2007. (klh, COURT STAFF) (Filed on 11/16/2007) (Entered: 11/16/2007)
11/08/2007	4	CLERK'S NOTICE re: Failure to E-File and/or Failure to Register as an E-Filer re: #1 Complaint (gba, COURT STAFF) (Filed on 11/8/2007) (Entered: 11/08/2007)
10/23/2007	3	CLERK'S NOTICE TO PLAINTIFF RE: Consent to Proceed before a U.S. Magistrate Judge. Form due by 11/6/7. (klh, COURT STAFF) (Filed on 10/23/2007) (Entered: 10/23/2007)
10/18/2007		CASE DESIGNATED for Electronic Filing. (gba, COURT STAFF) (Filed on 10/18/2007) (Entered: 10/19/2007)

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10/18/2007		Summons Issued as to United States of America, U.S. Department of Fish &Wildlife Service. (gba, COURT STAFF) (Filed on 10/18/2007) (Entered: 10/19/2007)
10/18/2007	2	ADR SCHEDULING ORDER: Case Management Statement due by 1/18/2008. Case Management Conference set for 1/25/2008 01:30 PM. (Attachments: #1 CMC Standing Order#2 JCS Standing Order#3 New Standing Order)(gba, COURT STAFF) (Filed on 10/18/2007) (Entered: 10/19/2007)
10/18/2007	1	COMPLAINT for Damages; Demand for Jury Trial against United States of America, U.S. Department of Fish & Wildlife Service (Filing fee \$ 350.00, receipt number 34611011604). Filed by Ronald Richman. (gba, COURT STAFF) (Filed on 10/18/2007) (Entered: 10/19/2007)

EXHIBIT C



Phone Message taken by Krystal

Date: 11/6/2007; 2:23 PM

To: Lani

From: Chuck Freiderick from U.S. Fish & Wildlife in Sacramento 916-414-6606

Re: Richman

"We got the summons from Ronald Richman vs. United States Fish and Wildlife. It has to do with a gentleman named Greg Lacey, who is not nor has been on our payroll. I think we tried to tell somebody that 6 or 8 months ago. We think you've got it confused with Fish & Game. But, anyway my number here is 916-414-6606. And, anyway I don't know that this is the right place for this. But if somebody could give me a call, that would be great."

Otz of Contra Corta was Public Works Cts admin now Dept of Airports

Page 15 of 16

Richman v. United States of America, et al. USDC Case No. C07-05317 JCS

Document 22

PROOF OF SERVICE (Code Civ. Proc. § 1013a)

I am a citizen of the United States. My business address is 222 Rush Landing Road, P.O. Box 6169, Novato, CA 94948. I am employed in the County of Marin, where this mailing occurs. I am over eighteen years of age and not a party to the within cause. On the date set forth below, I served the attached document described as:

OPPOSITION TO MOTION TO DISMISS FOR LACK OF SUBJECT MATTER **JURISDICTION [FED. R. CIV. P. 12(b)]**

on the following person(s) in this action by placing a true copy thereof enclosed in a sealed envelope addressed as follows:

Abraham A. Simmons U.S. Attorney's Office 450 Golden Gate Avenue P.O. Box 36055 San Francisco, CA 94102

Tel: (415) 436-7264 Fax: (415) 436-6748

Email: abraham.simmons@usdoj.gov

Attorney for Defendant U.S. Department of

Agriculture

Herb Schwartz 829 Locust Street Garberville, CA 95542

Tel: (707) 923-2223 Fax: (707) 923-2082

Mediator

- (BY MAIL) I am readily familiar with my firm's practice for collection and processing of [X] correspondence for mailing with the United States Postal Service, to wit, that correspondence will be deposited with the United States Postal Service this same day in the ordinary course of business. I sealed said envelope and placed it for collection and mailing on July 16, 2008, following ordinary business practices.
- (BY EXPRESS MAIL OVERNIGHT DELIVERY) I caused each envelope, with delivery fees provided for, to be deposited in a box regularly maintained by the US Postal Service. I am readily familiar with Brayton Purcell's practice for collection and processing of correspondence for overnight delivery and know that in the ordinary course of Brayton Purcell's business practice the document described above will be deposited in a box or other facility regularly maintained by the US Postal Service at Novato, California on the same date that it is placed at Brayton Purcell for collection
- (BY FACSIMILE) I caused said documents to be transmitted by facsimile machine to the number indicated after the address(es) noted above.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct and that this declaration was executed on July 10, 2008, at Novato, California.